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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application Number : 10/693,604 Confirmation No.: 6463  
Applicant : Richard ASSAKER et al.  
Filed : October 27, 2003  
Title : ANTERIOR IMPLANT FOR THE SPINE  
TC/Art Unit : 3731  
Examiner: : Unknown  
Docket No. : 64118.000033  
Customer No. : 21967

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 3 of this paper.